

U.S. Appln. S.N. 10/578,503
AMENDMENT

PATENT

REMARKS

This Amendment incorporates the features of claims 7 and 8 into claim 1, cancels claims 7-10, and amends the specification. Claims 1-6 are pending.

Examiner Hess is thanked for indicating the allowability of claim 8, if placed into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is believed this Amendment places the entire application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

The Amendment overcomes the objection to the disclosure. Page 2 has been amended by deleting references to claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure are earnestly requested.

This Amendment overcomes the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-7, 9 and 10 over U.S. Patent No. 6,281,478 to Chandler et al. The claimed distribution system for transfer of components to a position for picking by a pick and place machine head includes

at least one component distributor module comprising a belt member adapted to the width of the component to be transferred, and a base portion comprising a motive means adapted to drive a belt member of at least one component distributor module,

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wherein the at least one component distributor module is adapted to be releasably fixed to the base portion, and

wherein the distribution system is provided with a retractable member provided on the base portion and driven by a second motive means provided on the base portion, for transferring a component by the belt to a location in which the component is held from further movement until the component is picked by the pick and place head.

Chandler et al. fails to disclose these features of the claimed distribution system. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of claims 1-7, 9 and 10 are earnestly requested.

The objection to claim 8 has been mooted by the cancellation of that claim. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 8 are earnestly requested.

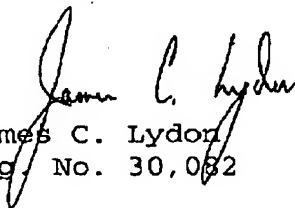
It is believed this Application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 8 and the rejection of claims 1-7, 9 and 10, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance directed to claims 1-6, are earnestly requested. The Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned should he believe any further action is required for allowance.

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It is not believed any fee is required for entry and consideration of this Amendment. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1258 in the amount of any such required fee.

Respectfully submitted,



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